UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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EXAMINER
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

PTOL-90A (Rev. 04/07)

-- *The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address* --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *13 November 2007*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-15* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-15* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *9/8/2003* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☒ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1.   Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-15 have been considered but are

moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3.   Claims 1-5 and 7-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable

over Furukawa et al. (hereinafter "Furukawa '065" US 2001/0046065) in view of Tonkin

(hereinafter "Tonkin '568" 6,134,568)

        With respect to **Claim 1**, Furukawa '065 discloses a printing control apparatus

which performs a printing process employing a plurality of printing devices **(i.e., Para**

0012, a Printing control apparatus employing a plurality of printers), comprising:

printing attribute acquisition means **(i.e., Para 0049, Host computer)** for acquiring an

attribute of a printing job to be processed **(i.e., Para 0050-0057, Host computer**

acquires attributes such as resolution and number of pages); adaptive environment

determination means for obtaining device combinations **(i.e., Para 0059, host**

computer determines match of network printers) capable of executing the printing

job based on performance information **(i.e., Para 0060 , host computer determines**

match of printers based on speed of printers) representing at least performance of

devices and the acquired attribute of the printing job (i.e., **Para 0060, host computer executes print job depending on least performance such as speed and acquired attribute such as number of print pages**) and teaches a process flow presentation means for process procedures to be performed by respective printing devices included in the device combinations obtained by said adaptive environment determination means (i.e., **Para 096, display shows process procedures of printers selected by said adaptive environment determination means**).

Furukawa '065 does not explicitly teach a process flow presentation means for presenting a process flow required to execute the printing job, wherein the process flow includes work procedures to be performed by a user.

However, the mentioned claimed limitations are well known in the art as evidenced by Tonkin '568, In particular, Tonkin '568, teaches the use of a print control apparatus comprising a process flow presentation means (**i.e., Col. 4 Lines 51, Display**) for presenting a process flow required to execute the printing job (**i.e., 326 of Fig. 5F and Col. 7 Lines 57 61,the display shows a process flow for the printing job**), wherein the process flow includes work procedures to be performed by a user (**i.e., ,Col. 11 Line 66-Col 12 Lines 9, display shows work procedures to be performed by user**) .

In view of this, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify the printing control apparatus of Furukawa '065 as taught by Tonkin '568 since Tonkin '568 suggested in Col. 2 Lines 24-30 and Col. 2 Lines 58-61 that such a modification would allow a document assembler the

ability to view an image of the assembled document and reduce the like hood of

miscommunication between the , thereby further reducing the likelihood of errors or

misunderstandings.

With respect to **Claim 2**, Furukawa does not explicitly teach a printing control

apparatus according wherein when a plurality of device combinations exist (i.e., ,), said

adaptive environment determination means determines an order of the device

combinations under a condition designated in advance, and presents the device

combinations in that order.

However, the mentioned claimed limitations are well known in the art as

evidenced by Tonkin '568, In particular, Tonkin '568, teaches the use of a print control

apparatus comprising a printing control apparatus according wherein when a plurality of

device combinations exist **(i.e., 672 of Fig. 9 and Col. 13 Lines 47-51, device**

combinations of a plurality of mediums exist), said adaptive environment

determination means determines an order of the device combinations under a condition

designated in advance **(i.e., 674 of Fig. 9, Device combinations are designated in**

advance by determination means), and presents the device combinations in that

order **(i.e.,326 of Fig. 5F, Device combinations listed in order).**

In view of this, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art

at the time of invention was made to modify the printing control apparatus of Furukawa

'065 as taught by Tonkin '568 since Tonkin '568 suggested in Col. 2 Lines 24-30 and

Col. 2 Lines 58-61 that such a modification would allow a document assembler the

ability to view an image of the assembled document and reduce the like hood of

miscommunication between the , thereby further reducing the likelihood of errors or misunderstandings.

With respect to **Claim 3**, Furukawa '065 does not teach an apparatus wherein the performance information includes pieces of information on a printing speed, a cost, and a device installation place, and said adaptive environment determination means determines the order under a condition including any one of the printing speed, the cost, and the device installation place.

However, the mentioned claimed limitations are well known in the art as evidenced by Tonkin '568, In particular, Tonkin '568, teaches the use of a print control apparatus wherein the performance information includes pieces of information on a printing speed, a cost, and a device installation place **(i.e., Col. 13 Lines 31-41, performance information includes printing speed, cost and device installation place)**, and said adaptive environment determination means determines the order under a condition including any one of the printing speed, the cost, and the device installation place **(i.e., Col. 13 Lines 31-41, determination means lists the order under a condition of printing speed or cost)**

In view of this, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify the printing control apparatus of Furukawa '065 as taught by Tonkin '568 since Tonkin '568 suggested in Col. 2 Lines 24-30 and Col. 2 Lines 58-61 that such a modification would allow a document assembler the ability to view an image of the assembled document and reduce the like hood of

miscommunication between the , thereby further reducing the likelihood of errors or misunderstandings.

With respect to **Claim 4**, Furukawa '065 teaches an apparatus wherein the apparatus further comprises state acquisition means **(i.e., Para 0050, host computer)** for acquiring a process state of a printing device in use for executing the printing job **(i.e., Para 0050-0058 , is able to acquire current process states of network printers)**, and said process flow presentation means presents a current process status together with the process flow on the basis of the acquired process state **(i.e., Para 0094-0095 and S8 of Fig. 8, display presents current process conditions met by the designated printers and also list of printers which will print data on the basis of the acquire process state)**.

With respect to **Claim 5**, Furukawa '065 does not explicitly teach an apparatus wherein in the presented process flow, one of the working procedures or the process procedures which are in progress or are to be performed next is emphatically displayed to present the current process status.

However, the mentioned claimed limitations are well known in the art as evidenced by Tonkin '568, In particular, Tonkin '568, teaches the use of an apparatus wherein in the presented process flow, one of the working procedures or the process procedures which are in progress or are to be performed next is emphatically displayed to present the current process status **(i.e., Col. 11 Lines 66-Col. 12 Lines 9 and Figs. 8A-8E, a working procedure to be performed next is displayed to present the current process status)**.

In view of this, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify the printing control apparatus of Furukawa '065 as taught by Tonkin '568 since Tonkin '568 suggested in Col. 2 Lines 24-30 and Col. 2 Lines 58-61 that such a modification would allow a document assembler the ability to view an image of the assembled document and reduce the like hood of miscommunication between the , thereby further reducing the likelihood of errors or misunderstandings.

With respect to **Claim 7**, Furukawa '065 does not explicitly teach an apparatus wherein the apparatus further comprises display means for displaying device combinations capable of executing the printing job so as to be able to select one of the device combinations, and said process flow presentation means presents process flow of the printing process by a combination selected via said display means.

However, the mentioned claimed limitations are well known in the art as evidenced by Tonkin '568, In particular, Tonkin '568, teaches the use of an apparatus wherein the apparatus further comprises display means **(i.e., 310 of Fig. 5B, Display Means)** for displaying device combinations capable of executing the printing job **(i.e.316, 320, 322 and 324 of Fig. 5B, Devices that can be combined and are displayed on display means)** so as to be able to select one of the device combinations **(i.e., Col. 7 Lines 47-48, User may select a combination)**, and said process flow presentation means presents process flow of the printing process by a combination selected via said display means **(i.e., Figs. 8A-8E, process flow**

presentation means presents process flow of printing process by a combination selected).

In view of this, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify the printing control apparatus of Furukawa '065 as taught by Tonkin '568 since Tonkin '568 suggested in Col. 2 Lines 24-30 and Col. 2 Lines 58-61 that such a modification would allow a document assembler the ability to view an image of the assembled document and reduce the like hood of miscommunication between the , thereby further reducing the likelihood of errors or misunderstandings.

With respect to **Claim 8**, Furukawa '065 does not explicitly teach an apparatus wherein when the attribute of the printing job contains color printing, said adaptive environment determination means detects monochrome and color pages contained in the printing job, and determines a device combination so as to print the monochrome page by a monochrome printing device.

However, the mentioned claimed limitations are well known in the art as evidenced by Tonkin '568, In particular, Tonkin '568, teaches the use of an apparatus wherein when the attribute of the printing job contains color printing, said adaptive environment determination means detects monochrome and color pages contained in the printing job, and determines a device combination so as to print the monochrome page by a monochrome printing device **(i.e., 674 of Fig. 9, Determination means detects monochrome and color pages and determines a device combination for printing respective pages).**

In view of this, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify the printing control apparatus of Furukawa '065 as taught by Tonkin '568 since Tonkin '568 suggested in Col. 2 Lines 24-30 and Col. 2 Lines 58-61 that such a modification would allow a document assembler the ability to view an image of the assembled document and reduce the like hood of miscommunication between the , thereby further reducing the likelihood of errors or misunderstandings.

With respect to **Claim 9,** Furukawa '065 teaches an apparatus wherein the apparatus further comprises state acquisition means **(i.e., Para 0049, Host Computer)** for acquiring a device state of a device that included in the device combination actually used to process the printing job **(i.e., Para 0050-0058, Host computer acquires a device state of a device included in the device combination)**

Furukawa '065 does not explicitly teach an apparatus where said process flow presentation means changes a display state of the process flow on the basis of the device state acquired by said state acquisition means

However, the mentioned claimed limitations are well known in the art as evidenced by Tonkin '568, In particular, Tonkin '568, teaches the use of an apparatus wherein the apparatus where said process flow presentation means changes a display state of the process flow on the basis of the device state acquired by said state acquisition means **(i.e., Para 0094, process flow presentation means changes a display on the basis of device state acquired by acquisition means).**

In view of this, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify the printing control apparatus of Furukawa '065 as taught by Tonkin '568 since Tonkin '568 suggested in Col. 2 Lines 24-30 and Col. 2 Lines 58-61 that such a modification would allow a document assembler the ability to view an image of the assembled document and reduce the like hood of miscommunication between the , thereby further reducing the likelihood of errors or misunderstandings.

With respect to **Claim 10**, Furukawa '065 does note explicitly teach an apparatus wherein said process flow presentation means emphatically presents a procedure which is in progress or is to be performed by a user out of the presented process flow.

However, the mentioned claimed limitations are well known in the art as evidenced by Tonkin '568, In particular, Tonkin '568, teaches the use of an apparatus wherein said process flow presentation means emphatically presents a procedure which is in progress or is to be performed by a user out of the presented process flow **(i.e., Fig. 8A-8E, process flow presentation means emphatically presents a procedure which is to be performed by a user).**

In view of this, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify the printing control apparatus of Furukawa '065 as taught by Tonkin '568 since Tonkin '568 suggested in Col. 2 Lines 24-30 and Col. 2 Lines 58-61 that such a modification would allow a document assembler the ability to view an image of the assembled document and reduce the like hood of

miscommunication between the , thereby further reducing the likelihood of errors or misunderstandings.

With respect to **Claim 11**, Furukawa '065 teaches a printing control method **(i.e., Para 0012, Print control method)** for performing a printing process employing a plurality of printing devices **(i.e., Para 0012, a Printing control apparatus employing a plurality of printers)**, comprising: a printing attribute acquisition step of acquiring an attribute of a printing job to be processed **(i.e., Para 0050-0057, Host computer during attribute acquisition step acquires attributes such as resolution and number of pages)** an adaptive environment determination step of obtaining device combinations **(i.e., Para 0059, host computer determines match of network printers)** capable of executing the printing job based on performance information **(i.e., Para 0060 , host computer determines match of printers based on speed of printers)** representing at least performance of each of the plurality of printing devices and the acquired attribute of the printing job **(i.e., Para 0060, host computer executes print job depending on least performance such as speed and acquired attribute such as number of print pages)**; and a process flow presentation step of presenting a process flow required to execute the printing job, wherein the process flow includes process procedures to be performed by respective printing devices included in the device combinations obtained in said adaptive environment determination step **(i.e., Para 096, display during process flow presentation step shows process procedures of printers selected by said adaptive environment determination step)**.

Furukawa '065 does not explicitly teach a print control method wherein a process

flow presentation step of presenting a process flow required executing the printing job

and wherein the process flow includes work procedures to be performed by a user

However, the mentioned claimed limitations are well known in the art as

evidenced by Tonkin '568, In particular, Tonkin '568, teaches the use of a print control

method comprising a process flow presentation means **(i.e., Col. 4 Lines 51, Display**

means) for presenting a process flow required to execute the printing job **(i.e., 326 of**

Fig. 5F and Col. 7 Lines 57 61,the display means shows a process flow for the

printing job), wherein the process flow includes work procedures to be performed by a

user **(i.e., ,Col. 11 Line 66-Col 12 Lines 9, display means shows work procedures**

to be performed by user).

In view of this, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art

at the time of invention was made to modify the printing control method of Furukawa

'065 as taught by Tonkin '568 since Tonkin '568 suggested in Col. 2 Lines 24-30 and

Col. 2 Lines 58-61 that such a modification would allow a document assembler the

ability to view an image of the assembled document and reduce the like hood of

miscommunication between the , thereby further reducing the likelihood of errors or

misunderstandings.

With respect to **Claim 12**, Furukawa '065 does not explicitly teach method

wherein the method further comprises a display step of displaying device combinations

capable of executing the printing job on display means so as to be able to select one of

the device combinations, and in the process flow presentation step, process flow of the

printing by a device combination selected via the display means is presented

However, the mentioned claimed limitations are well known in the art as

evidenced by Tonkin '568, In particular, Tonkin '568, teaches the use of a method

wherein the method further comprises a display step **(i.e., 310 of Fig. 5B, step of**

displaying a printing control method) of displaying device combinations capable of

executing the printing job on display means **(i.e.316, 320, 322 and 324 of Fig. 5B,**

Devices that can be combined and are displayed in display step) so as to be able

to select one of the device combinations**(i.e., Col. 7 Lines 47-48, User may select a**

combination), and in the process flow presentation step, process flow of the printing by

a device combination selected via the display means is presented. **(i.e., Figs. 8A-8E,**

process flow presentation step presents process flow of printing process by a

combination selected).

In view of this, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art

at the time of invention was made to modify the printing control method of Furukawa

'065 as taught by Tonkin '568 since Tonkin '568 suggested in Col. 2 Lines 24-30 and

Col. 2 Lines 58-61 that such a modification would allow a document assembler the

ability to view an image of the assembled document and reduce the like hood of

miscommunication between the , thereby further reducing the likelihood of errors or

misunderstandings.

With respect to **Claim 13**, The method wherein the method further comprises a

state acquisition step **(i.e., Para 0049, Host Computer performs acquiring step)** of

acquiring a device state of a device that included in the device combination actually

used to process the printing job **(i.e., Para 0050-0058, Host computer during state**

acquisition step acquires a device state of a device included in the device

combination).

Furukawa '065 does not explicitly teach a print control method wherein in the

process flow presentation step, a display state of the process flow is changed on the

basis of the device state acquired in the state acquisition step.

However, the mentioned claimed limitations are well known in the art as

evidenced by Tonkin '568, In particular, Tonkin '568, teaches the use of a print control

method wherein in the process flow presentation step, a display state of the process

flow is changed on the basis of the device state acquired in the state acquisition step

(i.e., Para 0094, process flow presentation step changes a display on the basis of

device state acquired by acquisition step).

In view of this, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art

at the time of invention was made to modify the printing control method of Furukawa

'065 as taught by Tonkin '568 since Tonkin '568 suggested in Col. 2 Lines 24-30 and

Col. 2 Lines 58-61 that such a modification would allow a document assembler the

ability to view an image of the assembled document and reduce the like hood of

miscommunication between the , thereby further reducing the likelihood of errors or

misunderstandings.

With respect to **Claim 14**, Furukawa '065 teaches a method for controlling a

printing process employing a plurality of printing devices **(i.e., Para 0012, a Printing**

control process employing a plurality of printers), comprising: a printing attribute

acquisition step of acquiring an attribute of a printing job to be processed **(i.e., Para**

0050-0057, Host computer during attribute acquisition step acquires attributes

such as resolution and number of pages); an adaptive environment determination

step of obtaining device combinations **(i.e., Para 0059, host computer during**

adaptive environment determination step determines match of network printers)

capable of executing the printing job based on performance information **(i.e., Para 0060**

, host computer determines match of printers based on speed of printers)

representing at least performance of each of the plurality of printing devices and the

acquired attribute of the printing job **(i.e., Para 0060, host computer executes print**

job depending on least performance such as speed and acquired attribute such

as number of print pages); and a flow presentation step of presenting a process flow

required to execute the printing job, wherein the process flow includes process

procedures to be performed by respective printing devices included in the device the

device combinations obtained in said adaptive environment determination step **(i.e.,**

Para 096, display during process flow presentation step shows process

procedures of printers selected by said adaptive environment determination

step).

Furukawa '065 does not explicitly teach a computer-readable medium storing

program code for causing a computer to execute a method for controlling a printing

process and a process flow presentation step of presenting a process flow required to

execute the printing job, wherein the process flow includes work procedures to be performed by a user.

However, the mentioned claimed limitations are well known in the art as evidenced by Tonkin '568, In particular, Tonkin '568, teaches the use of a computer-readable medium storing program code **(i.e., Col. 15 Line 26, Computer readable medium storing program code)** for causing a computer to execute a method for controlling a printing process **(i.e., Col. 15 Lines 26-27, program causes a computer to execute methods for controlling a printing process)** and a process flow presentation step **(i.e., Col. 4 Lines 51, Display showing process flow presentation step)** of presenting a process flow required to execute the printing job, wherein the process flow includes work procedures to be performed by a user **(i.e., ,Col. 11 Line 66-Col 12 Lines 9, display shows work procedures to be performed by user)** .

In view of this, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to modify a computer readable medium of Furukawa '065 as taught by Tonkin '568 since Tonkin '568 suggested in Col. 2 Lines 24-30 and Col. 2 Lines 58-61 that such a modification would allow a document assembler the ability to view an image of the assembled document and reduce the like hood of miscommunication between the author, thereby further reducing the likelihood of errors or misunderstandings.

With respect to **Claim 15, Furukawa '065** teaches a printing process employing a plurality of printing devices **(i.e., Para 0012, a Printing control process employing a plurality of printers)**, said product comprising: a printing attribute acquisition process

procedure code **(i.e., Para 0049, computer code for a printing attribute acquisition process procedure)** for acquiring an attribute of a printing job to be processed **(i.e., Para 0050-0057, computer code acquires attributes such as resolution and number of pages)** ; an adaptive environment determination process procedure code for obtaining device combinations **(i.e., Para 0059, computer code determines match of network printers)** capable of executing the printing job based on performance information **(i.e., Para 0060 , computer code determines match of printers based on speed of printers)** representing at least performance of each of the plurality of printing devices and the acquired attribute of the printing job **(i.e., Para 0060, computer code executes print job depending on least performance such as speed and acquired attribute such as number of print pages)**; and a process flow presentation process procedure code for presenting a process flow required to execute the printing job, wherein the process flow includes process procedures to be performed by respective printing devices included in device combinations obtained by said adaptive environment determination code **(i.e., Para 096, computer code for display during a process flow presentation step, process procedures of printers selected by said adaptive environment determination step)**

Furukawa '065 does not explicitly teach a computer program product comprising a computer-readable medium having computer code for controlling a printing process and a process flow presentation process procedure code for presenting a process flow required to execute the printing job, wherein the process flow includes work procedures to be performed by a user.

However, the mentioned claimed limitations are well known in the art as

evidenced by Tonkin '568, In particular, Tonkin '568, teaches the use of a computer

program product comprising a computer-readable medium having computer code **(i.e.,**

Col. 15 Line 26, Computer program product storing program code) for controlling a

printing process **(i.e., Col. 15 Lines 26-27, program causes a computer to execute**

methods for controlling a printing process) and a process flow presentation process

procedure code **(i.e., Col. 4 Lines 51, Display process code)** for presenting a process

flow required to execute the printing job, wherein the process flow includes work

procedures to be performed by a user **(i.e., ,Col. 11 Line 66-Col 12 Lines 9, computer**

code shows work procedures to be performed by user).

In view of this, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art

at the time of invention was made to modify computer program product of Furukawa

'065 as taught by Tonkin '568 since Tonkin '568 suggested in Col. 2 Lines 24-30 and

Col. 2 Lines 58-61 that such a modification would allow a document assembler the

ability to view an image of the assembled document and reduce the like hood of

miscommunication between the author, thereby further reducing the likelihood of errors

or misunderstandings.

4.   Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over ' 065 in

view of '568 and further in view of Fukuchi (hereinafter "Fukuchi '451" 6,128,451)

With respect to **Claim 6**, the combination of Furukawa '065 and Tonkin '568 does

not explicitly teach an apparatus wherein the process flow includes a message which

prompts checking or replenishment of an expandable used by the printing device as a

preparation process.

However, the mentioned claimed limitations are well known in the art as

evidenced by Fukuchi '451, In particular, Fukuchi '451 teaches the use of an apparatus

wherein the process flow includes a message which prompts checking or replenishment

of an expandable used by the printing device as a preparation process **(i.e., Col. 6**

Lines 45-51, preparation process the process flow 24 of Fig. 3 prompts

replenishment of an expandable [toner] use by the printing device as a

preparation process)..

In view of this, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art

at the time of invention was made to modify the apparatus of Furukawa '065 and Tonkin

'568 as taught by Fukuchi '451 since Fukuchi '451 suggested in Col. 1 Lines 50-52 that

such a modification would create less of a disturbance to the user.

Conclusion

5.   Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in

this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** See MPEP

§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37

CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE

MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dennis Dicker whose telephone number is (571) 270-3140. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday -Friday 7:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Aung Moe can be reached on (571) 272-7314. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Aung Moe
SPE
Art Unit 2625
1/22/08

DD
1/10/2008